

Friend and co-worker...
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We say goodbye to a dear friend and co-worker...

Director of Highways James C. Slifer died October 28, 2001. Serving the

Department for more than 30 years, and a member of several associations,
he will be sadly missed by many at IDOT and in the transportation industry.

In this third annual report documenting the department's accomplishments to the people of the state of Illinois, I am proud to highlight the work results of thousands of employees and private contractors. Here are just a few of those accomplishments:

- Funded nearly 2,400 highway and bridge projects statewide;
- Continued major reconstruction of the Hillside Bottleneck in Chicago to reduce congestion and improve highway safety;
- Sustained high-speed rail development;
- Supported 38 transit and 130 airport projects;
- Maintained a low traffic fatality rate on Illinois highways;
- Promoted construction work zone safety through public service announcements featuring the children of highway workers; and
- Implemented a major administrative program to improve departmental operations.

The department was able to develop many more multi-modal transportation projects through Gov. George Ryan's Illinois FIRST program, which provides additional billions of dollars to all transportation modes from FY 2000 through FY 2004.

As partners with private industry, all levels of government, and citizens who use and pay for the system, we work hard to maintain and improve one of the nation's premier transportation systems. We also are constantly looking for ways to become more effective and efficient.

We have found some of those ways as the lead state agency in developing strategic planning methods to improve programs and services. Citizens have confirmed their satisfaction with our efforts through several surveys. As part of the strategic planning initiative, department employees help in planning system improvements and receive additional training to respond better to citizen needs. Strategic planning thus helps fulfill our mission to provide a safe, cost-effective transportation system to enhance our quality of life, prosperity and environment.

This annual report shows you how we continue to invest the taxpayers' money in the state's transportation infrastructure effectively and efficiently.

Kirk Brown

Secretary

Illinois Department of Transportation

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